

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:
  - developing a data structure including assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the assumed variables in said data structure being arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy;
  - determining a first outcome for the financial value stream of the business enterprise based upon the assumed variables;
  - authorizing a user to alter one or more of the assumed variables according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned; and
  - determining a second outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise taking into account the altered assumed variables.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first outcome includes a present financial value of the value stream.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first outcome includes a non-financial metric.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - authorizing each of a plurality of users to alter the assumed variables according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned;
  - storing, for each altered assumed variable, an identification of the user who made the alteration; and
  - determining alternate outcomes for the value stream of the business enterprise taking into account selected aggregations of the altered assumed variables wherein the selected aggregations are formed according to the stored identifications.

1        5.        A method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise  
2        in creating value, comprising:

3                developing a data structure including a plurality of assumed variables that have an  
4        influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the data structure having a portion  
5        which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;

6                determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
7        upon the assumed variables of the base case scenario;

8                altering, by a plurality of users, selected ones of the plurality of assumed  
9        variables;

10               storing each altered assumed variable in the data structure in association with an  
11        identifier of the user who made the alteration, and maintaining the assumed variables of  
12        the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of users;

13               aggregating selected ones of the altered assumed variables and selected ones of  
14        the assumed variables of the base case scenario in accordance with the stored identifiers  
15        to form one or more alternate scenarios; and

16               determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
17        upon each of the alternate scenarios.

1        6.        The method according to claim 5, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in a  
2        multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the  
3        hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the  
4        hierarchy.

1        7.        The method according to claim 6, wherein said altering further comprises  
2        authorizing each of the users to alter the assumed variables according to a level of the  
3        hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned.

1        8.        The method according to claim 5, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2        includes a present financial value of the value stream.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2 includes a non-financial metric.

1 10. A method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise  
2 in creating value, comprising:

3 developing a data structure including a plurality of assumed variables that have an  
4 influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the data structure having a portion  
5 which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;

6 determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
7 upon the assumed variables of the base case scenario;

8 providing real-time feedback, by each of a plurality of users, on the value creation  
9 performance of the business enterprise;

10 storing the real-time feedback in the data structure in association with an identifier  
11 of the user who provided each portion of the feedback, and maintaining the assumed  
12 variables of the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of users;

13 aggregating selected ones of the portions of the feedback and selected ones of the  
14 assumed variables of the base case scenario; and

15 determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
16 upon the selected ones of the portions of the feedback and the selected ones of the  
17 assumed variables of the base case scenario.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in  
2 a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the  
3 hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the  
4 hierarchy.

1 12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2 includes a present financial value of the value stream.

1 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2 includes a non-financial metric.

1 14. A system for processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise  
2 in creating value, comprising:

3 a memory device for storing a data structure including assumed variables that  
4 have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the assumed variables in  
5 said data structure being arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables  
6 positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables  
7 positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy;

8 means for authorizing a user to alter one or more of the assumed variables  
9 according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned;

10 a filter for selecting certain ones of the assumed variables and for selecting certain  
11 ones of the altered assumed variables; and

12 a calculation engine for receiving the certain ones of the assumed variables and  
13 the certain ones of the altered assumed variables from the filter and for determining an  
14 outcome for the financial value stream of the business enterprise based upon the certain  
15 ones of the assumed variables and the certain ones of the altered assumed variables.

1 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the outcome includes a present  
2 financial value of the value stream.

1 16. The system according to claim 14, wherein the outcome includes a non-financial  
2 metric.

1 17. The system according to claim 14, further comprising:

2 means for authorizing each of a plurality of users to alter the assumed variables  
3 according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned,  
4 wherein for each altered assumed variable, an identification of the user who made the  
5 alteration is stored in the data structure; and

6 means for determining alternate outcomes for the value stream of the business  
7 enterprise taking into account selected aggregations of the altered assumed variables  
8 wherein the selected aggregations are formed according to the stored identifications.

1 18. A method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise  
2 in creating value, comprising:

3 developing a data structure including a plurality of assumed variables that have an  
4 influence on a value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event  
5 for each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable, the data  
6 structure having a portion which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;

7 determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
8 upon the assumed variables and events of the base case scenario;

9 altering, by a plurality of users, selected ones of the plurality of assumed variables  
10 and selected ones of the events;

11 storing each altered assumed variable and each altered event in the data structure  
12 in association with an identifier of the user who made the alteration, and maintaining the  
13 assumed variables and events of the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of  
14 users;

15 aggregating selected ones of the altered assumed variables and events along with  
16 selected ones of the assumed variables and events of the base case scenario in accordance  
17 with the stored identifiers to form one or more alternate scenarios; and

18 determining an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based  
19 upon each of the alternate scenarios.

1 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in  
2 a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the  
3 hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the  
4 hierarchy.

1 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said altering further comprises  
2 authorizing each of the users to alter the assumed variables according to a level of the  
3 hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned.

1 21. The method according to claim 18, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2 includes a present financial value of the value stream.

1 22. The method according to claim 18, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario  
2 includes a non-financial metric.

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